(c) what are the details of income to State Governments/UTs by way of sales tax and octroi per barrel in the four Metro cities, *viz.* Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the last two years, month-wise; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to reduce sales tax and octroi by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of sales tax by oil companies

622. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL has paid sales tax of Rs. 8812 crore in 2005-06 as compared to meagre Rs. 5318 crore paid in 2001-02, an increase of Rs. 3494 crore;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that Central Government pays for incremental sales tax to state Governments paid by HPCL and the reasons for not reducing the tax burden *pari-passu*;

(c) how much is the total increase in sales tax paid by IOC, BPCL HPCL and other oil companies during the accounting year 2001-02 and 2005-06 and how much is oil subsidy given to these companies in 2005-06; and

(d) whether Government would consider withdrawing subsidy to oil companies as the same amount is used to pay taxes to state Governments and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Creation of employment through credit scheme

†623. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a provision to create employment, income, assets through credit scheme at State and district level in all the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

States and Union Territories with the co-operation of nationalised, commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof since the last three financial years, banks, and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase in banking strikes

624. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banking strikes have become a common feature in India these days;

(b) if so, the details of the bank strikes in the country during the last one year;

(c) the details of the loss suffered by the public as a result thereof; and

(d) how far the demands of the bank employees have been accepted to avoid such strikes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) In the past one year, strike calls were given by various unions/associations. First, majority of the State Bank of India employees went on strike from 3.04.2006 to 9.04.2006. Thereafter, there was one day strike each on 28.07.2006 and 27.10.2006, by all bank employees, in support of their demands.

(c) It is not possible to quantify the losses suffered due to strike.

(d) The negotiations were held by the Chief Labour Comissioner (Central) from time to time in this regard. However, the issues could not be resolved to the satisfaction of employees.

Loans disbursed to priority and non-priority sectors

625. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loans disbursed to priority and non-priority sectors at the end of March, 2006;